

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 remain in the application. Claims 2, 9 and 10 have been canceled. All of the claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, amendments to eliminate numeric references are not narrowing amendments and are not amendments entered for purposes of patentability. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10.

The Examiner objected to the abstract and proposed a rewording of the last sentence in the abstract.

The original abstract has been deleted and a new abstract has been added in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected in view of prior art. However, the Examiner identified claims 2 and 10 as being directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 10 would be allowed if amended or rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

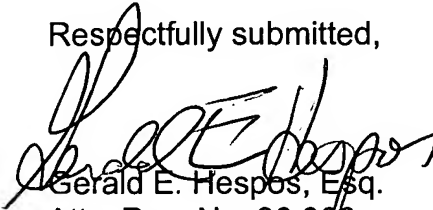
Allowable claim 2 had depended directly from independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2. Hence, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-7 all depend from claim 1 and should be allowed as well.

Allowable claim 10 had depended from claim 9, which in turn depended from claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. It is

believed that claim 9 was redundant, and hence the language of claim 9 is not incorporated into claim 8.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if any other issues need to be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: August 23, 2004